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ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

HEALTH REPORT

1962

ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.

together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

G. E. MALE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

1962

ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members of the Council
(1962 - 1963)

Chairman

R.C.CRUMP, J.P.

Vice-Chairman

A.J.JAFFE

Members

A.ARMSTRONG, J.P.
W.J.B.BERTRAND
E.J.BROADLEY
L.G.COMBES
W.A.E.CRICK
R.B.DAVIES
J.DAWSON
A.FARR
J.GOLDBERG
W.J.JOHNSON
J.B.LANCASTER
Mrs.F.M.MURRAY
N.C.WARD

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Council Offices, Shenley Road, Borehamwood

To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my 22nd Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1962.

The general health of the district continues to be good. There have been no epidemics during the year. The number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified was 12 compared with 14, 17, 22, 18, and 18 respectively in the years 1961 to 1957 inclusive. These figures do not include cases reported from Shenley Hospital.

The Council's Smoke Control programme made further progress during the year with the confirmation of the second Smoke Control Order. It is pleasing to note the support which is being given to this work by all sections of the community.

The setting up of the panel of speakers on Home Safety is also worthy of mention and it is hoped that their efforts, together with the display of posters in the district will help to reduce the number of home accidents.

Once again, I am very pleased to record my thanks to the Council for their support, to my fellow officers for their co-operation, and to the staff of the Health Department for their work during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G.WINN EVERETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	8,339 acres
Population (mid 1962 - Registrar General's Estimate)	29,490
Number of inhabitated houses (end of 1962)	
Elstree	6,906
Shenley	473
Ridge	84
Rateable Value (1st April 1963	£1,766,072
Estimate product of a penny rate (1st April 1963)	£7,600

VITAL STATISTICS

Births	Total	M	F
Live Births	449	226	223
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	15.2		
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	7.1		
Still-births	6	4	2
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births	13.2		
Total live and still-births	455	230	225
Infant deaths (Deaths under 1 year)	9	6	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	20.0		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (Legitimate)	16.8		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)	62.5		
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks) per 1,000 total live births	13.4		
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week) per 1,000 total live births	11.1		
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 live and still-births)	24.2		
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil		
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil		

DEATHS - Causes	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis	3	1	4
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1	2
Cancer - all forms and other malignant neoplasms	25	20	45
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	4	4
Vascular lesions of nervous systems	13	20	33
Heart Diseases	45	65	110
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	9	12
Influenza	-	4	4
Bronchitis	15	3	18
Other diseases of respiratory system	12	20	32
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	2	6
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1	1
Congenital Malformations	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	22	37
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
Other Accidents	2	7	9
Suicide	2	-	2
	144	182	326

Note: In considering the Death Rate, it should be observed that 192 deaths occurred of patients in Shenley Hospital and that they would not normally have resided in the District. The Death Rate excluding the hospital patients was 4.9

	Elstree R.D.C		England & Wales
	Actual	Standardised	
Birth Rate	15.2	13.7*	18.0
Death Rate	11.05	11.05*	11.9

* Actual rate x Comparability Factor to give Standardised Rate

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

One part-time Medical Officer of Health
One Chief and two District Public Health Inspectors
(All whole-time, qualified Public Health Inspectors and Meat and Food Inspectors).

The General Purposes Committee deals with all matters relating to Public Health. They meet on the second Monday in each month and receive the reports of the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector.

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Cases of infectious disease are conveyed to the Coppetts Wood Isolation Hospital, Muswell Hill and the West Hendon Hospital. The ambulance for non-infectious cases, provided by the Herts County Council, is stationed at the Fire Station, Elstree Way and is manned by the Herts Ambulance Brigade staff. If this service is not available, ambulances are on call from a pool controlled by the West Herts Divisional Control, St. Albans.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME

The area has six whole-time Health Visitors, three District Nurses employed on general nursing, three midwives and one nurse employed part-time on general nursing.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

(i) Elstree Way, Borehamwood

Ante-Natal: 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 2 p.m.
Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

Infant Welfare: Thursdays 2 to 4 p.m.

Family Planning: Fridays 2.15 to 3.15 p.m.

Speech Therapy: Fridays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon
2 to 4.30 p.m.

Ophthalmic: Wednesdays 1.30 to 4 p.m.

Orthoptic: Mondays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon
2 to 4 p.m.

Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation:
Fridays 10 to 11 a.m.

*School Dental Clinic:

*Orthodontic: Tuesdays 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Alternate Saturday mornings.

(ii) Health Annexe, Greenacres School, Borehamwood

Ante-Natal: Thursdays 2 to 4 p.m.

Infant Welfare: Tuesdays 2 to 4 p.m.

*Speech Therapy:

*School Dental Clinic:

(iii) Health Annexe, Saffron Green School, Borehamwood

Infant Welfare: Tuesdays 2 to 4 p.m.

*School Dental Clinic:

*Speech Therapy:

(iv) Church Hall, Shenley

Infant Welfare & Immunisation:
1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month 2 to 4 p.m.

* Treatment by appointment only

(e) HOSPITALS

The Rural District of Elstree is covered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Individual hospitals are managed by Hospital Management Committee Groups.

Barnet General Hospital

General Hospital with complement of 490 beds, with the usual medical and surgical facilities. Regular consultative clinics are as follows:-

Ante-Natal	Gynaecological	Physical medicine
Dental	Medical	Post-Natal
Dermatological	Neurology	Psychiatric
Chiropody	Ophthalmic	Radiotherapy
Ear, nose & throat	Orthopaedic	Sub-Fertility (Males)
Geriatric	Paediatric	Surgical
	Tuberculosis	

St. Stephens Hospital

Small general hospital with complement of 88 beds

Victoria Hospital, Wood Street, Barnet

Maternity Hospital with complement of 48 maternity beds and 48 cots.

Clare Hospital, South Mimms

Chest Hospital with complement of 334 beds

Child Guidance Clinic, Orchard Gate, Hill End, St. Albans

Child Guidance service: Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Patients seen by appointment only)

St. Albans City Hospital, Normandy Road, St. Albans

Venereal Diseases: Females - Tuesdays 5 to 7 p.m.
Fridays 2 to 4 p.m.
Males - Thursdays 1.30 to 4 p.m.

St. Albans City Hospital, Church Crescent, St. Albans

Venereal Diseases: Males - Tuesdays 5 to 7 p.m.

Bushey & District Hospital, Bushey

General Hospital with complement of 37 beds.

Coppetts Wood Hospital, London, N.20 (Telephone TUDor 9792)

Cases of Infectious Diseases (excluding Smallpox) are taken to this hospital. Bed complement 144.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Rural District has 3 parishes, Elstree, Shenley and Ridge.

The parish of Ridge and a small part of Elstree parish is supplied with water by the Lee Valley Water Company.

The parish of Shenley and the rest of Elstree parish is supplied with water by the Colne Valley Water Company.

I am indebted to the above-mentioned companies for the following information regarding the water supplied to the district.

1. The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

2. 733 samples of raw water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were variable.

   2831 samples of supply water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were very satisfactory.

   386 samples of raw water were examined chemically. the results were variable.

   651 samples of supply water were examined chemically. The results were very satisfactory.

3. Before distribution the supply water is chlorinated and partially dechlorinated. Part of the supply water is also filtered and most of it is submitted to softening.

4. The water is not likely to be plumbo-solvent.

5. All houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to the houses with the exception of one isolated house in the parish of Ridge which has a water supply from a private well.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The main centres of population in the district are served by drains connected to the trunk sewer of the South-west Herts Main Drainage Authority, the sewage being treated at Rickmansworth. There are small treatment works within the district at Catherine Bourne and Bell Lane, Shenley and at Watford Road, Elstree.

About 60 private septic tank disposal units are used for sewage treatment at farms and isolated dwellings. In the past, owners have had to make their own arrangements for the periodical removal of sludge from the tanks, but the Council have now been able to arrange for a service to be provided for the regular emptying of the tanks. This will begin early in 1963 and will be carried out by arrangement with the St. Albans Rural District Council.

There are now only 12 houses in the district without water-closets. Each is unable to be connected to main drainage, but efforts are being made to persuade the owners to replace the existing pail closets by waterborne sanitation to septic tanks.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is collected weekly from the whole of the district by the Council's own staff (under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor), and disposed of by controlled tipping on the site of the disused sewage works at Medburn Farm, Elstree and at Moor Mills, Park Street, Nr. St. Albans.

The use of paper sacks instead of dustbins is now the policy of the Council and steady progress is being made in the extension of this improved hygienic method to the whole of the district.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Routine inspections were carried out at these premises during the year. No statutory action was necessary.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are no public swimming pools in the Elstree Rural District, but the Council have plans for the provision of an indoor pool at Borehamwood.

CLEAN AIR

In July, approval was received to the Council's proposal to establish the second Smoke Control Area. The Order will become operative on the 1st July 1963 by which time the area between the Barnet By Pass and Furzehill Road,,from Shenley Road and Elstree Way southwards to the district boundary will be under Smoke Control.

It is proposed to extend the area under Smoke Control by stages, the whole of Borehamwood being included by 1965.

RODENT CONTROL

One Rodent Operative is employed part-time on this work under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Mr.J.Bond, who has for many years given excellent service to the district, retired during the year having reached the age of 70 years. His duties as Rodent Operative are now carried out by Mr.P.Keogh.

During the year, investigation was carried out at 212 properties for the purpose of rodent control. Of these, 126 were found to be infested with rats and 36 infested with mice. These were subsequently treated by the local authority.

A survey and test baiting of sewers for rats was carried out during the year. Baits were laid in 67 manholes throughout the district. No bait was taken.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year 11 Standard Grants and one Discretionary Grant were approved. The total amount of grants payable was £1478.

In accordance with the wishes of the Minister of Housing and Local Government, a survey was made of the houses in three streets known to be of the type which lack modern amenities but which would, if improved, provide adequate housing accommodation for many years.

The result of the survey is as follows:-

Number of houses inspected	110
Number with all 5 Standard Amenities	30
Number without food stores	50
Number without bathrooms	34
Number without wash-hand basins	56
Number without hot water supply	32
Number without indoor water closets	40
Number requiring improvement which are occupied by tenants	43

Letters and booklets explaining the help available to carry out improvements with the aid of grants were sent to the owners of all the houses in which such work was required. As a result, only one application was received. This was in respect of an owner-occupied house.

RENT ACT 1957
CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during 1962.

HOME SAFETY ACT 1961

This Act enables local authorities to promote safety in the home, and after consideration, the Council agreed to set up a "Home Safety Panel" under the Chairmanship of County Councillor A.Farr. The panel is comprised of a Health Visitor, representatives of the Gas and Electricity Services, Station Officer of the Fire and Ambulance Service, and the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The panel visits meetings of Women's Organisations, Old Folks' Clubs and schools. Each member of the panel speaks for five minutes on Safety in the Home and then answers questions put by members of the audience.

The Council has become a subscriber to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Posters and leaflets have been circulated, dealing, among other subjects, with fireguards, the correct use of oil heaters and the danger of accidents caused by falls in the home.

Section D

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:

Disease	Total Notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever	13		
Diphtheria	2	2	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-		
Erysipelas	1	1	
Measles	56		
Whooping Cough	6		
Pneumonia	-		
Dysentery	2		
Poliomyelitis	-		
Food Poisoning	44		

Age Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 & over	Age Unknown	Totals
Scarlet Fever		1		1	3	6	2				13
Diphtheria							2				2
Puerperal Pyrexia											-
Erysipelas									1		1
Measles	1	4	7	2	6	32	2	1	1		56
Whooping Cough		1	3			2					6
Pneumonia											-
Dysentery						1		1			2
Poliomyelitis											-
Food Poisoning		4	1	3	2	6	4	2	22		44

TUBERCULOSIS - New cases and mortality during 1962

Age Group	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5								
5 to 14								
15 to 24	2	4						
25 to 44		2		1		1		
45 to 64	2				1			
65 & over								
Age unknown								
*Totals	5	6	-	1	1	1	-	-

*Not including patients resident in Shenley Mental Hospital

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC
HEALTH INSPECTOR

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1962

The year has shown a continued decline in the number of complaints received regarding housing defects. This is probably due to a variety of reasons, but it is pleasing to record that in all but one instance, repairs which were required were carried out without the necessity for formal action. In the case which necessitated the serving of a Statutory Notice, the work was carried out within the time allowed.

Routine inspections of various premises have been carried out during the year and a considerable amount of time has been taken up with inspections in connection with the Smoke Control Order No. 2, but this is well worthwhile and will prove of permanent benefit to all who live or work in the area.

Work was in progress at the end of the year on the construction of the Municipal Caravan Site at Allum Lane. When this is in use the district will no longer have caravans on roadsides or other unlicensed sites.

It is a pleasure to record my sincere thanks to the Council for their support and to the staff of the Health Department for their hard work and willing co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G.E.MAIE

Chief Public Health Inspector

INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

A total of 3,427 visits and inspections was made during the year to all types of premises. 303 inspections of food-preparing establishments were carried out.

85 Informal Notices were served during the year requiring the repair or remedy of defects.

One Statory Notice was served under the provisions of Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936 requiring the remedying of defects at a dwelling house. The work was carried out satisfactorily.

REGISTERED COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

A total of 30 visits was made to agricultural holdings during the year. No Statutory Action was necessary.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed				64	344	
Number inspected				64	344	
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CISTICERCI:						
Whole carcases condemned				Nil	2	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned				7	17	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci				10.94	5.55.	
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcases condemned					Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned					2	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis					0.58	
CYSTICERCOSIS:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned						
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration						
Generalised and totally condemned						

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1955
Milk and Dairies Regulation

The following table gives particulars of milk samples taken during the year from purveyors within the district. All samples satisfied the prescribed tests as required by the Milk and Dairies Regulations

Total No. of Samples	Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	Pasteurised
21	17	4

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS 1959

Under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, there are only two registrations in the district of premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, and 46 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream.

16 samples were taken during the year of which 8 were from vendors trading ice-cream manufactured outside the district. The results of the bacteriological examinations are as follows:

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
16	-	5	1

Provisional Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory, Grades 3 and 4 are unsatisfactory.

It will be seen that 72.7 per cent of samples were Grade 1, 22.7 were Grade 3 and 4.5 Grade 4. The unsatisfactory samples of Ice-cream were taken from Soft Ice-cream machines on mobile vehicles.

FOOD PREMISES

There are 174 premises in the district where food is prepared for sale, or sold, or offered or exposed for sale to the public.

The following table gives a summary of the type of food premises in the area:-

General provision shops	31	Butchers shops	14
Confectioners (Sweets etc)	14	Greengrocers	14
Confectioners (Bakers)	5	Fishmongers	5
Ice cream manufacturers	2	Bakehouses	4
Cafes and Restaurants	8	Factory Canteens	20
Building site canteens	2	School Canteens	17
Licensed Premises	20	Stalls	5
Chemists	6	Off Licences	7

All the above-mentioned premises were inspected during the year.

11 notices were served requiring necessary works to be carried out in food premises.

FOOD & DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

The Hertfordshire County Council are responsible for sampling food and drugs in this District and I am indebted to Mr.E.H.Griffiths, Divisional Inspector, Weights & Measures Department for the following information regarding samples taken in the Elstree Rural District during 1961:-

Milk Samples	54	- All genuine
Samples other than milk	11	- All genuine

In addition to the routine samples taken by our sampling officers, the following complaints by members of the public were dealt with:

Food	Complaint	Action taken
Milk	Bottle dirty	Bottle was contaminated by soil. Milk bottler cautioned.
Milk	Contained a grub	Grub was that of a fruit fly. Milk bottler cautioned.
Milk	Contained metal foil (two cases)	Foil was sterile and harmless but the milk bottlers were cautioned in each instance.

Food	Complaint	Action taken
Cream bun	Contained a dirty portion	The dirt consisted of discoloured and oily dough. Manufacturers cautioned.
Peanut Butter	Contained pieces of glass.	Manufacturers cautioned.
Corned Beef	Discoloured in places.	Discolouration due to iron sulphide from the tin. The importers were informed.
Pilchards (tinned)	Contained a black substance.	The substance was pilchard liver. Public Analyst considered this not to be objectionable although it would be more usual for tinned pilchards not to contain the livers. Importers informed, and complaint passed on to canners abroad.
Blancmange	Lost its colour after being cooked.	This was found not to be due to any fault in the food but rather to the fact that the blancmange had been kept hot (as sauce) for a long period and there had been a selective absorption of the colouring matter into the "skin" which formed on top of it

I would again mention that by the sampling of products in other County Districts - products which may well be found also in Elstree Rural District - the County Council gives a wider protection to Districts than might be imagined from the sampling figures for any one District. As an example, in that part of the London County Council Estate, Borehamwood which lies outside the area of the Elstree District Council, two unsatisfactory products were found in 1962, which could also have been bought inside the Elstree District. Legal proceedings leading to convictions and fines were the result of these samples. They concerned a "10% Butter Genoa Cake" which contained only 1% butter, and a canned "Orange Juice with added sugar" which contained only 30% Orange Juice and 62% of added water.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st December 1962

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses incl. Council Houses (2)	All other (including Business Premises) (3)	Total of Cols 1,2 & 3 (4)	Agricultural (5)
Number of properties in Local Authority's District	10	7,393	1,510	9,913	70
Number of properties inspected as a result of (a) Notification	4	135	32	161	2
(b) Survey under the Act	-	71	19	90	12
(c) Otherwise	2	764	363	1,129	30
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by: Rats (Major	1	-	-	1	-
(Minor	3	100	26	129	2
Mic (Major	-	-	-	-	1
(Minor					
Number of infested properties treated by L.A.	7	120	37	164	3

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1962

Part 1 of the Act

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	4		
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	97	79	5	
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)				
Total	113	83	5	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) Overcrowding (S.2) Unreasonable temperature(S.3) Inadequate ventilation (S.4) Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes Other offences against the Act. (not including offences relating to Outwork)	5	5			
Total	5	5			

Outworkers: Number of Outworkers in the district during the year was 31
Nature of Work: Making of wearing apparel